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WOMEN'S RURAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR ACTIVITIES.

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WOMEN'S RURAL[1] ORGANIZATIONS ARE NUMEROUS AND VARIED.

The rural telephone, better roads, the automobile, and rural free delivery have greatly facilitated communication in rural districts. Women whose homes are on the farms are taking advantage of the improvement in means of communication and are endeavoring in an organized way to further the development of every phase of activity which will mean better home life on the farm, broader and bigger agricultural opportunities for the future, and an ideal rural community life.

Organizations have been small and simple, but they are permeating country life. For example, in one Southern State having three-fourths of its land area in farms there are over 500 women's rural organizations. The organizations represented are: The Homemakers' Clubs, the Parent-Teacher and School Improvement Associations, the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Cooperative Clubs, the Eastern Star, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In addition there are a number of ladies' aid and missionary societies, and neighborhood and family clubs not belonging to any of the county or State organizations.

[1] All organizations located in places of less than 2,500 inhabitants are considered as "rural." This is in accordance with the definition of rural territory adopted for the Thirteenth (1910) Census.

A single organization, of national character and not usually considered rural in its interests, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, counts among its locals in the open country, in hamlets, and

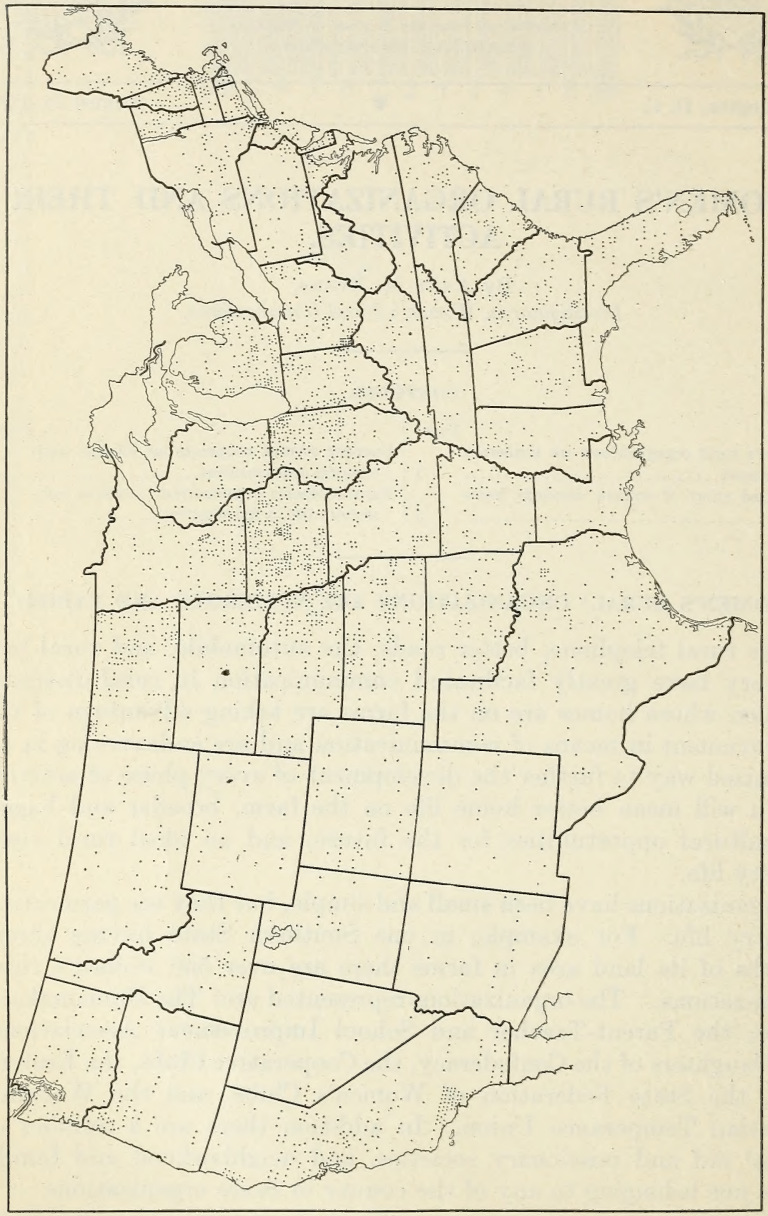

FIG. 1.—State Federation Clubs in places of less than 2,500 inhabitants. Each dot represents one club.

in small towns, over 3,500 women's organizations. (See fig. 1.) The National Woman's Christian Temperance Union has twice this number. (See fig. 2.)

There are two national farm women's organizations, the National Farm and Garden Association and the National Congress of Farm Women. Adequate means of communication is one of the most

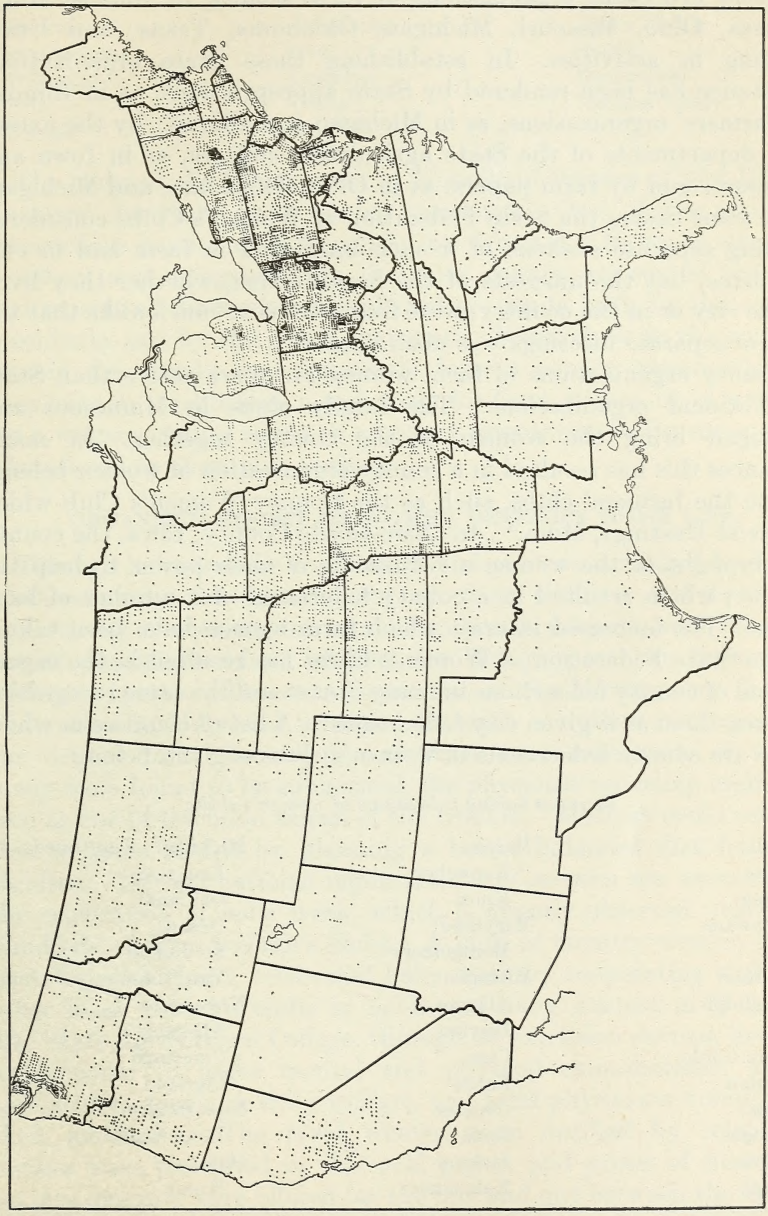

FIG. 2.—Woman's Christian Temperance Unions in places of less than 2,500 inhabitants. Each dot represents one union.

difficult problems of these organizations. The first-mentioned of these two organizations publishes a quarterly bulletin and holds annual and semiannual meetings in widely separated parts of the

country in its effort to meet this difficulty. The National Congress of Farm Women has thus far relied upon annual meetings, but it is felt that this is not adequate.

There are State organizations of farm women in Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, Missouri, Michigan, Oklahoma, Texas, and Utah, varying in activities. In establishing these State organizations assistance has been rendered by State appropriations, as in Illinois; by farmers' organizations, as in Michigan and Illinois; by the extension departments of the State agricultural colleges, as in Iowa and Missouri; and by farm papers, as in Ohio, Oklahoma, and Michigan.

In some States the State Federation of Women's Clubs considered holding separate sessions of women interested in farm and in city problems, but the interests of the homemakers, whether they lived in the city or in the country, were found to be so much alike that the idea of separate meetings was abandoned.

County organizations of farm women are more active than State or National organizations. The family clubs in Minnesota and Michigan bring the women of the county together. In many instances this has resulted in a county organization of women belonging to the farmers' clubs, such as the County Women's Club which meets at Hastings, Minn.[1] In Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, the county fair brought to the women a realization of their power to help the county, which resulted in a county federation of a number of local clubs. The increased interest which farm women have been taking in the State Federation of Women's Clubs has resulted in the organization of county federations in many States and the same recognition is given them as is given city federations. A list of counties in which there are county federations of women's clubs is given below:

Counties having federations of women's clubs.

Illinois:	Maine:	Michigan—Continued.
Kane	Kennebec	Lenawee
Indiana:	Knox	Oakland
Delaware	Maryland:	Oceana
Jay	Montgomery	St. Joseph
Madison	Michigan:	Van Buren
Randolph	Allegan	New York:
Iowa:	Berrien	Allegany
Cerro Gordo	Cass	Chenango
Clinton	Eaton	Cortland
Kansas:	Genesee	New Mexico:
Marion	Ionia	Dona Ana
Morris	Jackson	Ohio:
Osage	Kalamazoo	Huron

[1] The names of clubs given are those of which the writer has had opportunity to gain personal knowledge. They are given as illustrations. Many other clubs which have not been mentioned are doing a work equally important.

Oklahoma:
- Grady
- Logan
- Kiowa
- Garfield
- Harmon

Pennsylvania:
- Delaware
- Erie
- Greene
- McKean
- Montgomery
- Westmoreland

Texas:
- Armstrong
- Bee
- Cameron
- Collin
- De Witt
- Gregg
- Hidalgo
- Lubbock

Washington:
- Grays Harbor
- Skagit
- Snohomish
- Yakima Valley

The clubs of the Department of Household Science of the Illinois Farmers' Institute have county meetings. One of the national associations has its work organized by counties. In State meetings members and delegates from the same county are seated together and reports of the work accomplished are made both by the county presidents and by the State chairman. Rural clubs in the country around the county seat frequently form a county organization to cooperate in establishing a rest room for farm women or in working for a woman county agent or a county appropriation for some other educational or charitable purpose.

ORGANIZED EFFORT OF WOMEN DEVELOPS HOME LIFE.

Through baby-welfare conferences and contests arranged by clubs, mothers study the development of their children and have the opportunity of securing instruction on health subjects from the competent physicians whose services for this purpose can be secured without expense. The civic committee of the Montgomery County Federation in Maryland arranged for such a welfare conference at the county fair. Twenty-five children were examined, of whom many were found to be subnormal, the physician reporting malnutrition as one of the main causes of the trouble. Mothers could remedy this to some extent by planning a better balanced diet for their children. Several national organizations of women are encouraging the celebration of baby week, which is already observed yearly by hundreds of farm women's clubs. A club of country women living near Renwick, Iowa, celebrated baby week by cooperating with two other local women's clubs in holding a baby contest in Renwick. The State Agricultural College, through its extension service, detailed a physician to make mental and physical examinations, and a specialist to speak on child welfare, and local physicians volunteered their assistance. The rural women were notified by telephone, notices were published in the local paper, and prizes of five-dollar savings deposits were offered for the boy and girl between the ages of six months and three years found to be in the best physical condition. To defray incidental expenses each member of the club voluntarily contributed 30 cents. The prizes, equipment, and rooms for exami-

nation, as well as the services of doctors and nurses, were donated. Such contests are promoted by a single club or by several cooperating, but are most successful when open to all mothers and children in the township or county, regardless of club affiliation.

The study of foods at club meetings raises the standard of family health and tends to remove physical defects caused by malnutrition. The woman's club is often the only channel open to the married woman through which to continue the study of such subjects.[1] The Troy Culture Club, of Eagle Grove, Iowa, was organized for this purpose in 1910. Meetings were held every other week in the farm homes. The committee for the day prepared the food and looked up scientific facts to be discussed. Various methods of preparing different vegetables were shown in season. The leavening value of beaten eggs in omelets and in cake was studied in comparison with yeast and baking powder. Types of food constituting a balanced ration for the family were studied. These clubs form at present the most direct channel through which to promote the conservation of wheat and the use of war breads and meat substitutes.

More varied diet in many farm homes has been made possible through canning clubs, which are to be found in every State of the Union and which are especially successful in the South. Vegetables of all kinds, fruits, and even meats, are canned for home use.[2]

The promotion of penny savings by women's organizations has done much to encourage thrift in farm homes. The Harvard Woman's Club, a rural club in Massachusetts, instituted a stamp-saving campaign. A committee of two was appointed to manage the work and 35 children have established savings accounts. The Pepperell Women's Club, in Massachusetts, including farm women as members, though not strictly rural, started a work of this kind in December, 1916. In six months the children had saved $400. They bring their pennies to the school, give them to the teacher or to some responsible club woman, who opens an account in the child's name at the bank as soon as $1 is saved.

Labor-saving devices have been installed in many homes and new ideas of household efficiency developed through club work. At Potomac, Md., a number of such devices were constructed and exhibited at the community fair held in the schoolhouse. In order to prevent continual stooping to pick up clothespins while hanging out the washing, a clothespin bag was made on a coat hanger to slide along the line. A homemade fireless cooker [3] was shown as a device

[1] Most of the extension departments of the State agricultural colleges give assistance in organizing clubs of this kind and furnish program material and trained demonstrators in domestic science.

[2] Bulletins on canning may be secured from the United States Department of Agriculture and from the State agricultural colleges. Farmers' Bulletins published by the Department of Agriculture are: No. 839, Home canning by the one-period cold-pack method; and No. 853, Home canning of fruits and vegetables, 1917.

[3] Directions for constructing iceless refrigerators and fireless cookers may be found in Farmers' Bulletin No. 771, Homemade fireless cookers and their use; and Farmers' Bulletin No. 927, Farm home conveniences.

for cooking foods while attending to other duties. Another exhibit was a homemade white-enameled iceless refrigerator[1] designed to save unnecessary steps and lifting in putting food into the well for cooling. These and similar devices free the home maker from much unnecessary routine work and give her more opportunity to attend to other home problems.

Clubs organized for purely social purposes often become instrumental in interesting the members in home economics and community work. This is illustrated by a social club near Wyanet, Ill. After holding social meetings for two years in the homes of the members they reorganized as the Wyanet Household Science Club. A five-day school of domestic science has been secured from the university, at a cost of about $15; papers on home topics are read at the meetings, with an average attendance of 45; and occasional outside lecturers are secured. Figure 3 shows an afternoon joint meeting of two women's rural clubs.

Such activities as these reduce the sense of drudgery inevitable to the wo-

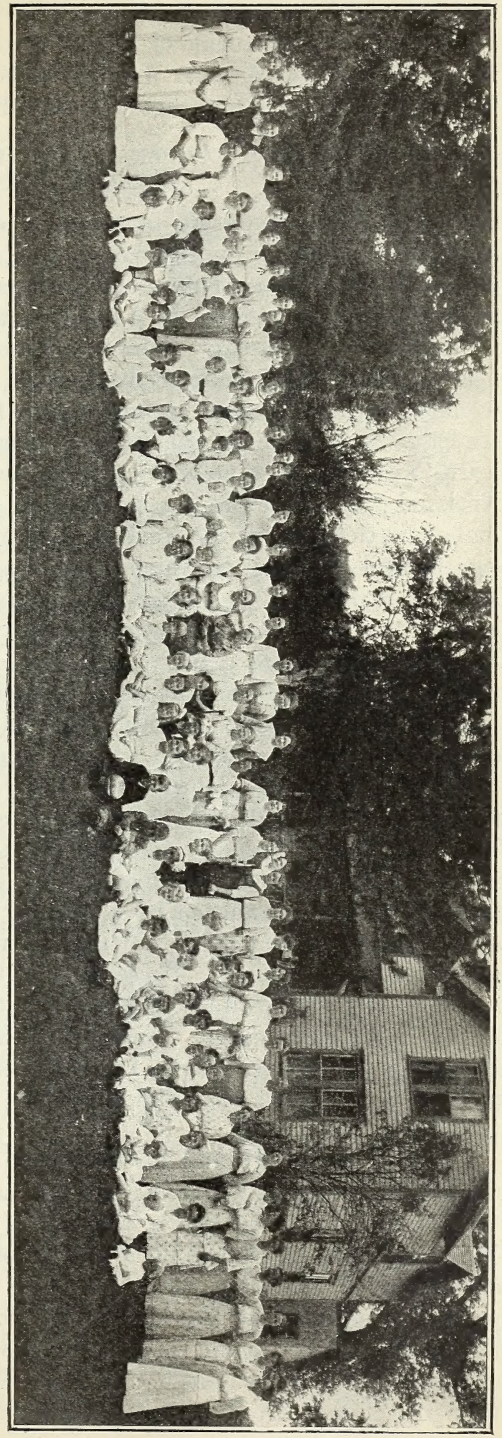

FIG. 3.—Joint meeting of two Women's Rural Clubs.

[1] See footnote 3, page 6.

man who works alone every day. They bring women together for discussion of the problems of daily life in such a way that they may return to their work with a sense of companionship, renewed enthusiasm, and interest in their accomplishments.

COUNTRY WOMEN COOPERATE FOR BROADER AGRICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Women are cooperating in practical efforts to solve agricultural problems. Personal experiences in seed selection for the production of corn were discussed before the National Congress of Farm Women at its last annual meeting by a delegate who has had marked success in corn and hog raising. Some women of rural clubs in Iowa have been experimenting with seed selection and germination. Various women's colleges located on large farms have arranged for groups of students to remain on the farms during the summer vacation to learn to operate the machinery and to study farm management. The National Farm and Garden Association has published in its official bulletin articles about the work done by members, describing various agricultural activities in which women farmers have been successful. Mention is made of the success of a woman at Whitesbog, N. J., as a grower of cranberries and large blueberries; of one at Wilmington, Del., in raising prize poultry; and of another at Newtown, Pa., who runs a large dairy farm and raises Ayrshire cattle. This association also assists in securing suitable positions for women trained in agriculture and for other women wishing to do agricultural work.

To encourage tree planting and flower growing, trees, plants, and roots have been collected and distributed by women's rural clubs. The Big Timber Woman's Club, of Montana, distributed among the women of the town 70 dozen asters for planting. To a community fair in Arkansas, promoted by a number of rural community clubs, each woman brought seeds, cuttings, or roots from all of the flowers grown on the premises. These were not sold, but exchanged, thus introducing a wide variety of plants for the beautification of all the homes in the community. In order to earn the money for trees and shrubbery the Women's Civic Improvement Club, of Huntley, Mont., planted beets in the acre and a quarter of ground which it wished to develop into a park.

Through the study and dissemination of information relating to marketing, women's organizations are assisting in agricultural development. At a federation meeting of the Logan County Farm Women's Clubs of Oklahoma a portion of the time was devoted to a discussion of problems connected with the grading, sorting, and packing of peaches for market, as the women assisted in harvesting the peach crop. Again, marketing the apple crop was similarly discussed by the women's clubs at Sunnyside, Wash. A farm woman's club in Denton, Md., whose membership comprises many

progressive farm women in the locality, made a study of the extent to which members of their club were selling farm products. It was found that during the past year seven members had sold nearly $1,000 worth of farm products, including eggs, chickens, canned goods, pigs, and butter. Some members were cooperating in shipping eggs, and others were carrying eggs a number of miles for shipment when they could have shipped with their friends near by. One member was securing high prices for infertile eggs and had more customers than she could supply, while others were willing to assist in supplying infertile eggs to the trade. The advantages of various methods of marketing were discussed by members from their own experiences.

Practical experiments in marketing have been carried on by a number of women's rural clubs in Pike County, Ill., which have aided members in marketing farm products, especially eggs and chickens. The rural club encouraged the work among its members and secured names of prospective buyers from clubs of city women, and while neither city nor country clubs assumed any financial responsibility, they stood for upright dealings on the part of members and thus helped to establish the necessary confidence between people personally unknown to each other.

By creating an interest in natural history and in agricultural education among girls and boys, women's rural clubs are endeavoring to prepare them to take advantage of agricultural opportunities already open. Agricultural shows and exhibits stimulating competition in production are fostered by rural clubs in many localities. In Massachusetts a woman lecturer of a local grange arranged for such an exhibit, where 59 varieties of grasses were displayed, together with rare woods, such as blue beech and ironwood, to be found in the locality. The bird department exhibited lists of 90 birds which had been seen in the neighborhood, and the flower department showed 160 classified flowers. Junior Audubon societies have been organized by women's clubs, the children holding classes and studying birds under the direction of members of the clubs. While these studies may not in all cases have direct bearing upon agricultural production, they frequently stimulate an interest in practical agriculture. The Women Farmers Club of Missouri has offered an annual scholarship of $25 for the study of practical farming to the girl who scores highest in planting and cultivating a certain amount of ground according to the rules of the boys' corn contest.

Many clubs are instrumental in obtaining better opportunities for reading. Volunteer librarians gather Government bulletins on agriculture and other material of interest in rural communities, and lend them to members of the community. The women's clubs of the State of Montana have cooperated in what is called a vocational

congress, the object of which is to present to girls throughout the towns and rural districts of Montana the vocational opportunities open to women. The congress includes conferences on agriculture, home economics, art, education, and newspaper work. Each club selects a representative girl from the high school in its district and pays her traveling expenses to and from Bozeman so that she may attend the vocational congress which is held at the State College. The college bears the expense of the speakers and the meetings, and the club women in the town of Bozeman entertain the delegates in their own homes during the three days' visit. This has not only benefited the girls, but their reports to the clubs sending them have been the occasion of joint meetings of local clubs and of wider interest in vocational opportunities.

The efforts of country women in cooperating for broader agricultural opportunities have been positive and constructive. They have shown a desire to work out agricultural problems in a fundamental way which will enable them to maintain high standards of home life on the farms.

FARM WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTE COMMUNITY LIFE IN THE COUNTRY.

With home conveniences on the farm the women have time to consider community needs and to plan for community development. Farm women have been able to give much time to those things which they believe helpful to all, and their activities have been so numerous that those mentioned here can serve only as illustrations.

Rest rooms for farm women [1] have been established in many States through the joint efforts of local clubs of rural women, in cooperation with organizations of women in town, chambers of commerce, and public officials. A room is maintained in a location convenient to country women for their own use when in town. Couches, easy chairs, reading material, and sanitary conveniences are provided.

Community fairs [2] or school fairs have been promoted by farm women in Montgomery County, Md., St. Joseph County, Mich., and in nearly all other States. The purpose is largely educational, but the meetings serve as opportunities in some localities to introduce athletic contests as well as industrial and agricultural competition. A county federation of women's clubs in Maryland arranged for an automobile pageant at the county fair, with about 20 beautifully decorated automobiles, some of them representing various women's organizations.

Home economics and manual training are often introduced into the rural schools as a direct result of club work. The Federation

[1] See Agricultural Yearbook Separate 726, Rest Rooms for Women in Marketing Centers.
[2] See Farmers' Bulletin 870, The Community Fair.

of Rural Clubs in Grand Junction, Colo., provided funds for the equipment for manual training in one rural school and for domestic science in another, the school trustees agreeing to provide the rooms and the instruction in both instances. In a rural community in New England, club women taught sewing to the children after school so successfully that in the latter part of the year time was given during the school day for this work, and provision was made for paying for such instruction from public funds. The Pettis County Home Makers' Club, a Missouri rural club of nearly 200 women, was instrumental in introducing domestic science into 10 of the rural schools in that county. Women's organizations in a number of Western States have promoted the building of homes in connection with country schools, in order that adverse boarding conditions in the country might not deter teachers from accepting positions in rural schools.

Entertainments to which all members of a community are invited are frequently given by rural club women. At Renwick, Iowa, these take the form of evening socials for the entire family, more than 100 attending. In another locality an annual picnic is held, to which everybody is invited, each county club contributing to the general entertainment; the Midland County Club, for instance, agrees to furnish a tableau representing the Thirteen Colonies. Sometimes a club secures a speaker to give an evening address in the church, in the Grange hall, or in the community building. Amateur theatricals and rural pageants, such as the one held in Thetford, Vt., are arranged for by rural club women. In one county an annual hunt is held; two leaders choose opposing teams and a score card is planned to encourage only the killing of farm pests. The women join in the hunt and provide the dinner. Community Christmas trees [1] are held in many rural places. In Shelby County, Tenn., there were seven such entertainments one year. The trees were trimmed by the school children with homemade decorations. The programs consisted of the singing of Christmas carols, Testament reading, and stories told by the older people of their first experiences at Christmas. Those born in foreign lands told how Christmas was observed there.

Community singing has found general favor. The Farm Women's Club of Edmond, Okla., started community singing in the schoolhouse. A competent person to direct and a suitable place for meeting appear to be the chief requirements. Club songbooks and official club songs frequently develop a social spirit.

The interest in rural history, which some rural clubs are promoting, helps to develop community life. Members of the Women Farmers' Club in Missouri, living in adjoining counties, arranged for markers to

[1] See report entitled "Community Christmas Trees," published by the Pan-American Union, Washington, D. C.

be placed on the old Santa Fe Trail and also on the road which now follows the trail blazed by Daniel Boone on his way to Salt Lick in Howard County. Neighborhood celebrations and dedications roused community interest in these events. A community history is being compiled by an organization of men and women in the progressive agricultural community of Sandy Spring, Md., of which organization the president, secretary, and historian are women. Each year a community historian is appointed to write a record of the achievements of the community for the current year, which is read at the annual mass meeting. Several volumes of this history have been published. Other rural clubs, such as the Evergreen Daughters of Ceres, near Eagle Grove, Iowa, are studying the State laws affecting women and children in connection with the study of town and State history.

Women's clubs have been instrumental in securing better roads. Dinners were served to road workers by the women of the Clarksville Pike Social Club, near Hopkinsville, Ky. In a county in Iowa, where "a Travel on Gravel" campaign was in progress, the Troy Culture Club, near Eagle Grove, furnished meals for all volunteer workers on the roads in that community. In another locality the Mothers' Club furnished lunches for the men on "Road Working Day." Members of the Missouri Women Farmers' Association pledged themselves to furnish teams for work on roads in their localities and to drag the roads in front of their own homes.

Rural cemeteries have been improved and kept in good condition through the activity of rural club women. The work of the Women's Cemetery Association of Dysart, Iowa, may be cited as an example. This association has a membership of over 150 women. The cemetery was given to the town some years ago, but no one attended to it. The undertaker sold the lots. Several members of the community felt that the women would be able to improve the general appearance of the grounds and asked that they undertake it. The women in return invited all public-spirited people to meet in the cemetery one evening and help clear away the débris. Subsequent meetings were held and pledges were made to meet the expense of improving the cemetery. Reports of the progress of the work were given at monthly meetings, and though only a few attended these meetings, all were enthusiastic about assisting in the work when called upon to do so. The women undertook to sell the lots themselves, raising the price from $10 to $25 and more, depending upon location. Money was raised in this way and through popular subscription, so that now they have over $2,000 in the treasury. A caretaker is hired for the summer months at a salary of $45 per month.

Clean-up and paint-up campaigns have been popular in the country as well as in the city. At Glendale, Ariz., the women's club of 75 members offered prizes for the largest refuse heaps. One hundred

and sixty school children collected 60 such heaps, which were removed by the town authorities. Fences and trees are whitewashed, and fly and moth campaigns are successfully carried on by women's clubs.

Arbor Day is celebrated in many localities by planting shade trees in the school yards and on country roads. A county in California planted a large number of shade trees on country roads, every woman's club in the county being responsible for certain portions of the road. The courtyard in Ashland City, Tenn., was turned into a park by the woman's club there.

Women's clubhouses are frequently used as community centers. A recreation hall was built by the Ladies' Literary Society, a rural club near Exeter, Me., as early as 1865. It is still in existence and has been managed by the same organization of women since its construction. There is a stage for speaking and dramatic entertainments, the Grange meets here, the young people may secure the hall for social gatherings, and equipment for cooking and serving is provided. On a reclamation project in Arizona a splendid type of rural club undertook the building of a clubhouse immediately upon being organized, as there was at that time no available meeting place large enough for public gatherings. It is said that at the time of the organization of this club in 1907, when the meetings were held in the members' homes, the members were very widely scattered and drove on trails and through sagebrush to the meetings, some driving as far as 17 miles. Funds were raised by subscription for the clubhouse, the business men contributing a substantial sum. The families of the members helped, and when the time came for construction much of the hauling and actual work of building was done by them. The clubhouse was used at once for a union Sunday school and has always been available without charge for any community enterprise. Its maintenance is provided for largely through rentals to the young people for their social gatherings. The Heaton Point Household Science Club, in Illinois, unable to build a clubhouse, bought 100 trays, spoons, and folding chairs to be used by any person in the community for special entertainments or for any large gathering.

Women's rural clubs have done much to further the employment of trained workers for the county, such as women county agents, county nurses, and county social service workers. The woman State agent for Mississippi has said that the women's clubs in that State have been constant and earnest supporters of woman county agent work in home economics. They have given financial aid, used their influence to secure appropriations, bought canning club products, and given the work a prominent place on their programs. In St. Joseph County, Mich., money was raised through the sale of Red Cross stamps and in other ways to pay part of the salary of a county nurse. In some rural communities the women's organizations have

been able to arrange for medical inspection in rural schools. In Wolfeboro, N. H., the women's club induced the local dentist to inspect without charge the teeth of all school children, including those from rural and village schools. Volunteers from the women's club attend to the clerical work and funds are furnished for dental work when necessary. A county nurse for public health work is employed by a county social welfare league in Montgomery County, Md. All local women's organizations in the county which wish to work for health improvement are invited to belong to this social welfare league. The nurse receives a salary of $100 per month and works with the county health officer. Her particular work the first year was directed toward reducing the death rate from tuberculosis and improving general sanitary conditions. The women's club of Pepperell, Mass., paid the salary of a trained nurse for a short time for the purpose of interesting the public in a district nursing association. This latter association is composed of men and women and is supported by $1 membership fees, with an appropriation of $200 from the town, together with fees of 25 cents an hour for those who can pay for the service. A number of Red Cross nurses have been employed under the rural nursing department of the American Red Cross and the local women's rural clubs have greatly assisted in promoting the success of the work. Rural women's organizations have given some assistance in making provision for county social service workers, such as county probation and juvenile court officers and children's aid society workers. They have also cooperated with these workers in caring for the dependent children of the county.

Philanthropic work is carried on by many women's rural organizations. The farm woman's free time, taken while resting from more strenuous labor, is frequently spent in knitting, crocheting, and sewing for sales to raise funds for charitable and religious purposes. The Congregational Ladies' Aid of Huntley, Mont., has contributed $1,000 in this way during the past seven years toward the support of the church. Barrels of canned fruit and crates of eggs, besides cash donations, are sometimes sent to local orphanages. An "Egg Day" is sometimes held, when each member contributes a dozen eggs or more, which are packed in cases at the club meetings. This has been done by farm women's clubs in many States, among which may be mentioned the Norden Ladies' Aid, on a Montana reclamation project, and the Boone Township Club, in Iowa. At Glendale, Ariz., the eggs were contributed at Easter and used for an egg hunt in the town park. Each child paid a small fee and the money was used for philanthropic purposes. A room in the town hospital is maintained by a rural club in Iowa. Seventy-five dollars was spent for the original equipment and special conveniences are added from time to time. War sufferers are assisted by local federations of women's clubs.

Such an organization in Traer, Iowa, through donations received from clubs in Tama County, contributed a carload of new clothing for relief in Belgium. A hundred dollars in money was raised in this town of less than 1,300 inhabitants by holding a Belgian tag day. The Home Improvement Club, a woman's country club near Clear Lake, Iowa, was instrumental in donating a carload of corn for Belgian relief. The club arranged for newspaper notices and church announcements requesting all who were willing to contribute to bring the corn to the farmers' cooperative elevator, from which it was shipped. Club members personally gave corn to the value of $100. Farm women have spiritedly undertaken Red Cross work, sewing, knitting, procuring wool for others to knit, collecting clean linen and cotton goods, and preparing bandages. Some of this work is best done under the direct supervision of the local Red Cross chapter.

The club work directed toward improving community life in the country has been varied but constructive and has been planned to include as workers all who wish to help. The results have been beneficial to the whole community and have tended to promote a community interest in country life and country problems and a closer intimacy with national needs.

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